

Jericho Conservation Commission  
July 13th, 2016 Meeting  
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ann Kroll Lerner, Liz Thompson, Brian Swisher, Laura Vallett, Tom Baribault (Chair)

Guest: Peter Gray

Meeting minutes for May's meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Agenda planned for a visit from Ethan Tapper the newly appointed Chittenden County Forester. However, Ethan was unable to meet with us tonight but wants to meet to discuss our town forest at a later date. It was also proposed that we should keep him in mind for a future walk next summer as one of the Natural Places of Jericho Events.

The stump from the tree removal on the Green was ground a couple of weeks prior and the Town planted the new Norway spruce last week. Tom was told that the tree needs 5 gallons of water on days when it does not receive rain in order to keep it well watered during the dry season. Members volunteered to take turns watering the tree during the summer; Tom on Sundays, Brian on Tuesdays, and Liz on Thursdays. Town Librarian Colleen will water the tree when the Library is open on the other days. We will need to find a water source or nearby spigot for watering as the Town Library's desired Rain Barrel is not yet installed.

The Wetland Inventory Report from Arrowwood has been completed and those who have perused the report online said it has good information and enhances the wetland mapping we already have. It was discussed that this report does not provide additional delineation of wetlands, but is another reference document for the functional value assessments of several of the Town's wetlands. This document will be forwarded to Katherine Sonnick.

Arrowwood's bill did make it into last year's fiscal year, however there is some confusion over the two invoices received to date. Liz will talk to Michael (Arrowwood) to sort out the invoicing.

Brian mentioned that he talked with his neighbor Connor Lahiff, a new member on the Planning Commission. Connor said that the Planning Commission still plans to address our Natural Resources District section revisions but they need to get through the Business District changes first.

Natural Places of Jericho Event this Saturday – the Geology Walk with UVM's Stephen Wright. Liz said Stephen plans to meet with her this Friday to check out a couple of spots around town for the event. Jericho is an exciting spot for glacial deposits and Lake Champlain Geology and there is a land slide adjacent to the Lee River which Stephen has taken students on field trips to for many years. He would also like to check out the Town's Gravel Pits.

Laura will post on Front Porch Forum as advertising for this event. Liz will provide some fun language to Laura describing the event for inclusion in the FPF post. Liz and Laura recapped the River Walk last month and agreed it was a great event with good attendance, great questions from the attendees and Gretchen did a wonderful job sharing her knowledge on River Dynamics and Biology. Laura will pick a weekend in September for the Stargazing Event and Tom is working with the Board of Trustees to see if a Jericho Green Work Day is possible for August.

Regarding the Tribute Bench for Phyllis, Tom and Peter plan to visit Cleary Stone Yard this week to look over the inventory. Brian brought up funding needs for the bench and whether we would be able to use some of the funds collected from the JCC cards being sold at the Emilie Gruppe Gallery these past several years. Brian relayed from Emilie that there are still cards to be sold, but that she needs new envelopes (the others are damaged from humidity). It was discussed that we should track down the proceeds from these card sales to see how much has been collected and whether we can use the funds towards the bench. Brian moved that the funds from the card be spent on the bench, Ann seconded, with all in favor. We also decided we should determine if it is worth it to continue selling these cards.

A quick review of DRB projects to close out the meeting. Tom mentioned the Hiram's Crossing Sketch Plan Review had occurred and that they will be putting piers in to stay outside of the floodplain with the proposed construction. The Raceway Development is now an Act 250 project and is under review. Brian reminded us that he already put forth comments on the sprawl of development in regards to the PUD proposal on Morgan Road.

Next meeting scheduled for August 10th